

A free press that affords the opportunity for many voices to be heard (whether radio, television or broadband) is fundamental to a functioning democracy. Even at now, there is only one voice heard on the networks, with slight variations in tone, miniscule variations in content. No one would ever know that the air waves are owned by the public, given the lack of public service provided by the stations and networks.

The consolidation of the radio networks, coupled with the corporate scandals of this year have made it painfully, dangerously clear that corporations and media owners are incapable of acting in the public interest; nor are they capable of providing accurate news reporting. The broadcast media even as it stands today does not allow for diversity, does not promote different points of view and does not support the public interests. It acts now only to monopolize information geared to taking money from our pockets to put it in theirs and to support a political agenda that speaks to their profit motive.

The personal ties and conflict of interest among administration, government and corporate personnel has reached critical mass. To think that a democracy can survive when the head of the FCC is related to the current administration is a naive and opportunistic perspective. Given the current position of the administration, the jingoistic attitudes supported by the press and the FCC ties to the administration, we find ourselves on a precipice: below us is the abyss of fascism. And while the administration touts democracy for all the world, we are extreme danger of losing ours. The FCC will be complicit in the failure of democracy if it does not act to protect the media from further consolidation and allow the many voices and perspectives of Americans to be heard.